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A Letter From Dr. Martin.

PILOT KNOB, Mo., Jan. 28, 1909.

Ed. Register—An article in the REGISTER last week, taken from an Osteopathic Publication, causes me to use this means of pointing out to the unwary how easily they may be separated from hard-earned cash by the arts of certain slick-tongued quacks.

The article in question relates how Medicine and Surgery have failed to cure hernia without an operation or truss, and attempts to point out the superiority of Osteopathy in the treatment of such a condition. It is so plainly a misrepresentation of the truth that one versed even in the rudiments of Anatomy could not fail to marvel that such an article should be placed before intelligent readers, unless, possibly as an example of the boundless claims of a legalized fraud.

For the benefit of those readers who are not informed along this line, I will say, that ordinarily, hernia, or rupture, is caused by a weak place in the abdominal wall, through which protrudes portions of the intestines, omentum, or other viscera. The contents of this tumor should be returned to the abdominal cavity and means instituted to keep it reduced. In young people a cure is generally brought about by reducing the hernia and applying a properly fitted truss or compress. In children the truss can generally be discarded in a few months. In older people, a surgical operation, in which the rent is repaired, is the only chance for a permanent cure.

I have stated the facts, as may be proven by reference to any authority—Medical or otherwise, and yet, compare these statements with the Osteopathic article and note the difference.

Now a word as to the value of medicine in the treatment of disease. Medicines are made from various elements of the Animal, Vegetable and Mineral Kingdoms, and are used to correct certain irregularities of the human system. There are three kinds of medicine we all take, viz: Food, air and water. Water is composed of the elements Hydrogen and Oxygen, and may as properly be called a medicine as the preparations of iron the doctor adds to water and administers to a patient whose system is deficient in that important element. To a normal mind it is axiomatic that medicine will be a potent means in the cure of disease as long as we breathe air, eat food and drink water.

The Science of Medicine embraces all known legitimate means of curing disease. Massage, suggestion, electricity, hydrotherapy, all have uses, and are recognized by good physicians the world over; but shall we discard all except massage and suggestion and call it Osteopathy? Well, that is about what a certain ignorant old doctor did, not many years ago. I have it from good authority that when he decided to legalize his imaginary discovery, and was called before the State Board of Health, and was asked to describe the Circle of Willis (a remarkable anastomosis of arteries at the base of the brain) he was compelled to admit his ignorance of any such structure.

And now the great State of Missouri, contrary to the example of sister states, has legalized this system of humbuggery called Osteopathy.

The unscrupulous Osteopath may now legally hypnotize, massage and extract an extortionate fee from every gullible person applying to him for treatment.

I admit there are many quacks in the profession of Medicine, offering their victims worthless nostrums and cure-alls. So in all professions. But I feel convinced that the main body of medical men are honest, upright, truthful, and above all, intelligent.

I close with the following extract from a paper read by Dr. Wm. L. Brosius before the last meeting of the Missouri State Medical Association:

"The hydropath, masseur, hypnotist, homeopath, christian scientist, osteopath, thermopath, the physio-therapist and psycho-therapist, are all claiming the attention of the public and of the profession as well. All these cults, pathies and isms are in a large measure the result of the conservatism of the regular medical profession. While we are contending with disease in its many forms, and facing in personal and many times, single-handed combat the

Grim Reaper, we have not given the attention we should to the pretensions of the unlearned, half-educated and learned but unscrupulous impostor. * * * We should ever be mindful that truth is eternal, and our instructors should investigate without prejudice; discover the truth; eliminate the error; be able to know the possibilities and limitations of things, both old and new, and to set them before the coming doctor, that he may be very much better grounded and equipped for his calling than we who are going before.

"We should not be unmindful of the contributions of our profession to the world's scientific progress, and to the comfort and longevity of man. In fact, all the pathies and isms to which we have referred have not contributed one item to the advancement of knowledge, or the betterment of the race.

"They have always been, and will continue to be, like noxious plants in the field, that only consume the soil and contaminate the harvest. All this is true because of our conservatism, our lack of aggressiveness. When we remember that Harvey kept his discovery to himself for ten years and then suffered professional ostracism; and how Jenner was treated by his contemporaries; and how, when Ambrose Pare tied a bleeding artery, the men who should have wretched his brow with garlands of a conqueror, said: 'Pare is willing to risk a man's life on a string,' we little wonder that the noblemen of our profession today, the men who occupy the positions upon the watch-towers, are not inspired to explore new fields, because they know that we are so slow to cultivate them.

"But let us take courage. May the work of such men as Virchow, Koch, Pasteur, Behring, Reed, Agramonte, Carroll and Lazear inspire us to say to our investigators and instructors, 'Lead on. We will try to show ourselves worthy of your labors and sacrifices.'"

Respectfully,
J. H. MARTIN, M. D.

Osteopathic Catechism.

(From Osteopathic Health.)

Question. What is osteopathy?

Answer. The latest development of medical science, constituting an entirely new and complete practice that is most successful in treating human ills, both medical and surgical, by skilled manipulations which enable Nature to do her allotted work without recourse to knife or drugs.

Q. What does the word mean?

A. It comes from the Greek osteon, bone, and pathos, disease—which latter word has come to signify the system of treating disease indicated by its prefix. The derivation of a name, however, cannot define or explain the philosophy or practice of any school of medicine. The propriety of this name will be manifest to any one who reads this little magazine.

Q. Does osteopathy teach that bones are usually diseased?

A. Absolutely no.

Q. Is it a treatment only for bone diseases?

A. No. It is a complete therapeutic system, applicable in practically all classes of diseases.

Q. Do you prescribe drugs at all?

A. Not to induce the body to perform its proper work. We use drugs as antidotes to poisons, of course, and as antiseptics in accordance with the demands of hygiene in order to destroy harmful bacteria which threaten to invade the human tissues; but these are very different things from using drugs to act upon the body itself. We also approve thoroughly of using anesthetics in surgical operations. In rare instances we countenance the use of opiates—but never to supplant more rational treatment which might cure the cause of pain.

Q. What is the fundamental conception of osteopathy?

A. That abnormal functioning of the body is of necessity dependent upon structural defect; that the sort of structural alteration first in order of occurrence is mechanical displacement, derangement in relationship, maladjustment of parts, and that such mechanical disorder serves to obstruct nerves or blood vessels, thereby preventing nutrition. Disturbances of functions result which if not checked, lead on finally to visible, palpable deteriorations in structure known as organic "lesions." Thus the earliest and most common cause of disease is assumed to be—not a change in the substance of one's tissues, but a disturbance in their relative arrangement.

(Continued next week.)

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ORDER OF PUBLICATION.
In the Circuit Court of Iron County, Missouri.—In vacation, January 26, 1909.
Warren D. Isenberg and Samuel N. Yeates, Plaintiffs,
vs.
Hugh A. Crawford and William S. Worley, Defendants.

(To try title.)
Now at this day came the plaintiffs and filed their petition, setting forth among other things, that the defendants, Hugh A. Crawford and William S. Worley, are non-residents of the State of Missouri, and that the ordinary process of this court cannot be served upon them in the State of Missouri. It is, therefore, ordered by the clerk of the circuit court in Iron County, Missouri, in vacation, that publication be made, notifying said defendants, that an action has been commenced against them in the circuit court of said county, the object and general nature of which is to try the title to the southwest quarter, and the west half of the southeast quarter of section nineteen (19), township thirty-five (35), range one (1) east, situated in Iron County, Missouri, and the court by its decree define the rights, titles and interests of the parties, plaintiffs and defendants, in and to said land. And unless they be and appear at the next term of said court, to be held for the county of Iron and State of Missouri, at the courthouse of said county, on the fourth Monday in April, 1909, next, and on or before the third day thereof, if the term shall be so long continued, and if not then before the end of the term, and plead, answer, or demur to the said plaintiffs' petition, the same will be taken as confessed, judgment rendered in accordance with the prayer of said petition, and the title of said land tried and defined.

It is further ordered that a copy hereof be published according to law in the Iron County Register, a weekly newspaper published in said county of Iron, and State of Missouri.
J. M. HAWKINS, Clerk.
A true copy: Attest, with seal, this, the 26th (SEAL) day of January, 1909.
J. M. HAWKINS, Clerk Iron County Circuit Court.

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT.
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Wm. Dunn, Administrator of the estate of H. B. Dunn, deceased, will make Final Settlement of his accounts with said estate as such Administrator, at the next term of the Probate Court of Iron County, Missouri, to be held at Ironton, in said county, on the 8th day of February, A. D. 1909.
WM. DUNN, Administrator.

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